

Columbia Gorge CWMA Pulling Together Initiative Project



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CWMA Overview

The Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a voluntary network of public and private interests in Northwestern Oregon and Southwestern Washington that are concerned with management of invasive plants.

The CG-CWMA seeks to prevent the introduction and control the spread of the most harmful invasive plant species by facilitating cooperative management amongst willing land owners and managers.



Project Overview

The CG-CWMA received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative grant award, “The Columbia River Gorge EDRR Project”, administered by the Hood River SWCD for the CWMA.

Objectives

- Facilitate data sharing between partners; by inventorying 40 high risk areas and collection of “legacy data” from partners to input into iMapInvasives and to share with Washington State.
- Install trailhead boot brushes and signs at 25 sites, to prevent invasive plant introduction and spread.
- Perform 4 “weed watcher” trainings within the CWMA region.



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Survey/Legacy Data Collection

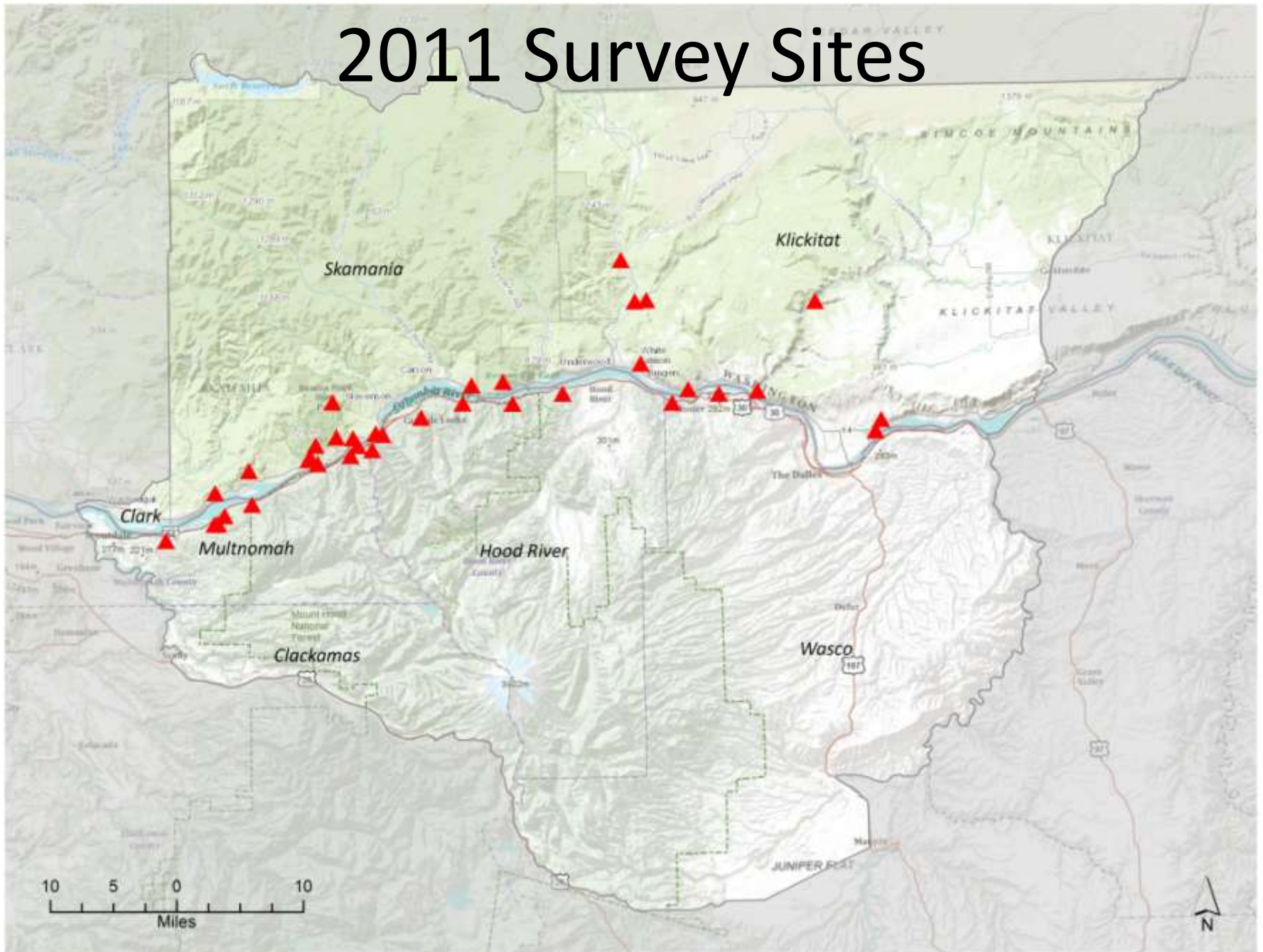
The image shows three screenshots of a data collection software interface titled "Terrestrial_Plant_GPS...". Each window has a blue title bar and a close button (X). The first window (Page 1) contains fields for Survey Date (7/17/2011), Observer (Stevenson, Emily), Survey Site (HIMU_CYSC4_001), Evaluation (Initial), Species (Cytisus scoparius), and Scots Broom. The second window (Page 2) contains fields for Distribution (Scattered plants or c), Cover Class (26%-50%), Percent Cover (27), Native Veg (Mixed), Landscape (Forest), Disturbance (Human), and Severity (Moderate). The third window (Page 3) contains fields for Plant Maturity (Seeds), Follow Up (Rapid Response can), Photo Info (DISC001.JPG), and Comments (Isn't this cool?). Each window has a navigation bar at the top and a set of control buttons (ok, X, and a green arrow) at the bottom.



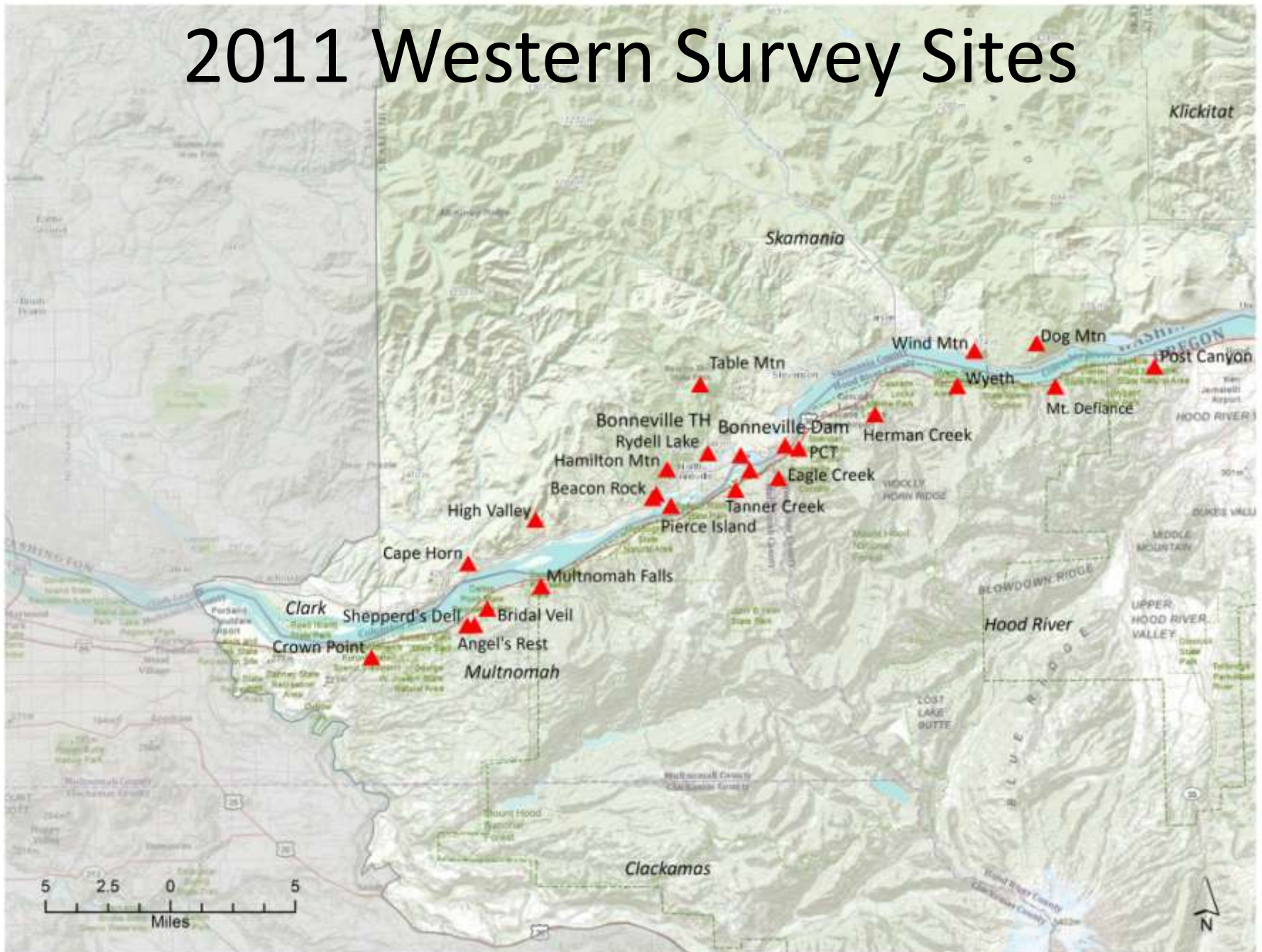
Compilation of partner infestation data, input to iMapInvasives and shared with Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Creation of iMapinvasives based ArcPad shapefile forms for inventory and treatment, for standardized data collection groupwide.

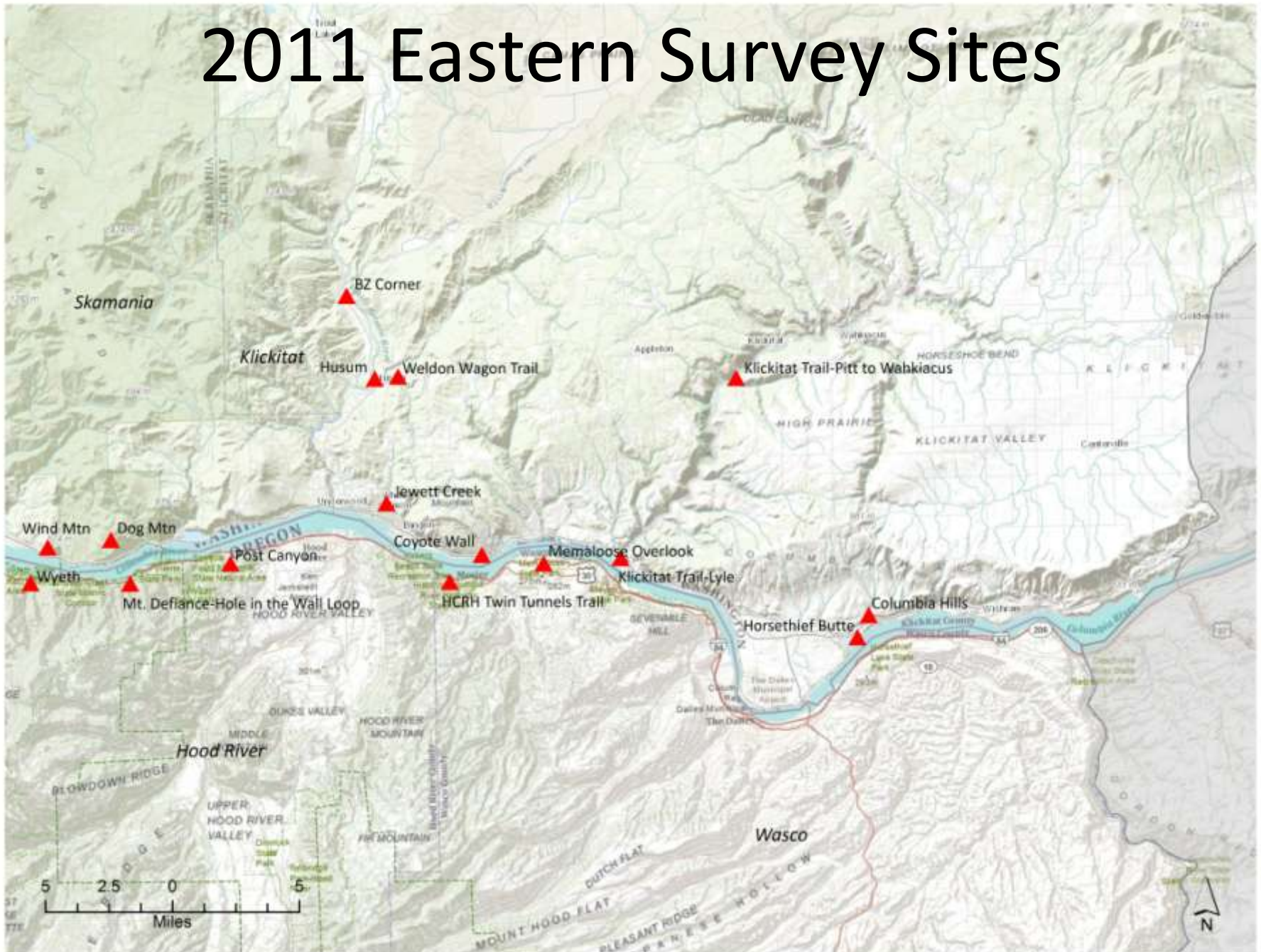
2011 Survey Sites



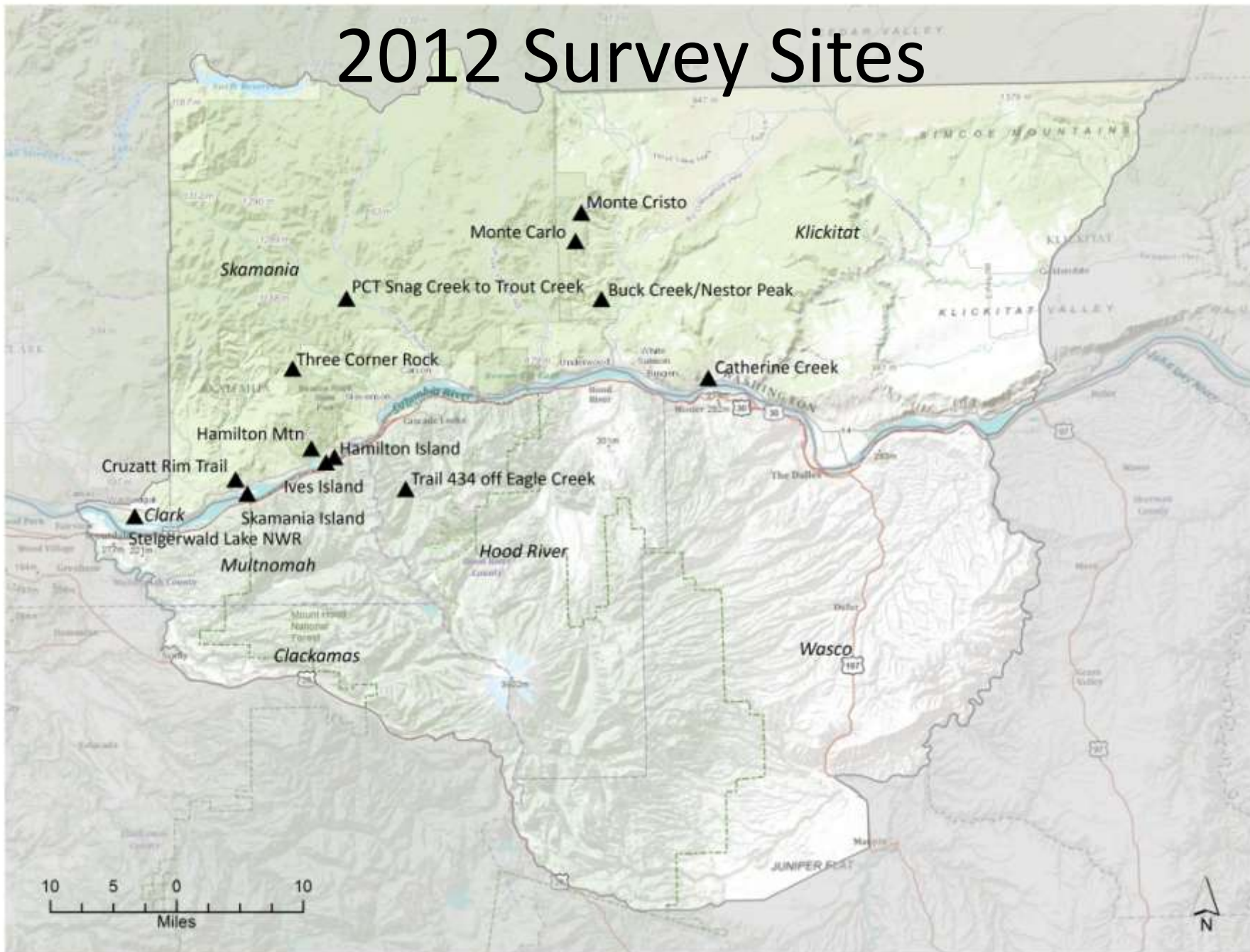
2011 Western Survey Sites



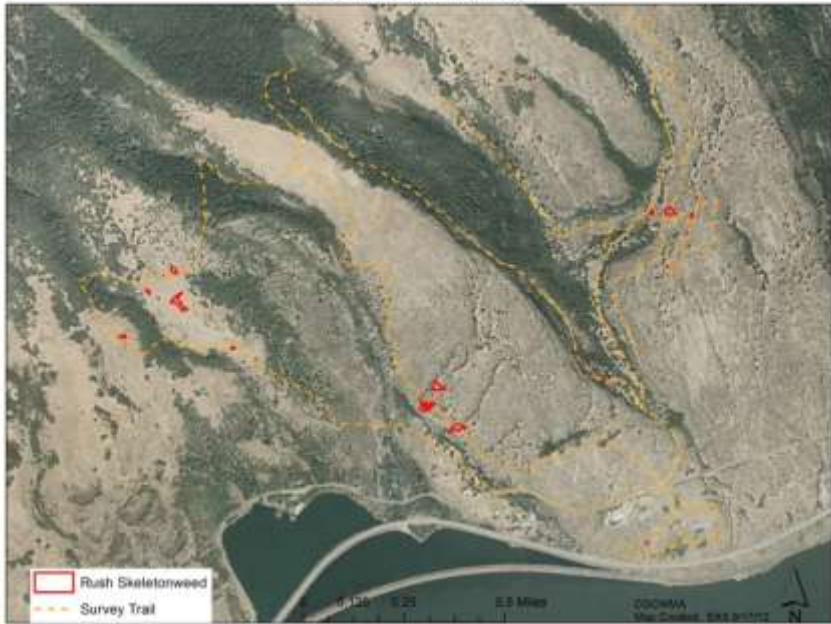
2011 Eastern Survey Sites



2012 Survey Sites



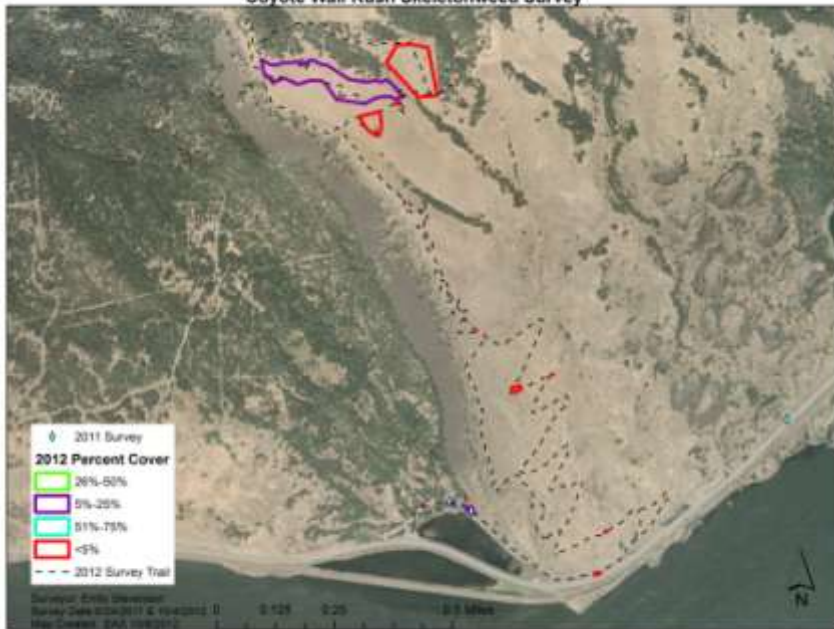
2012 Catherine Creek Survey



2012 Ives Island Survey



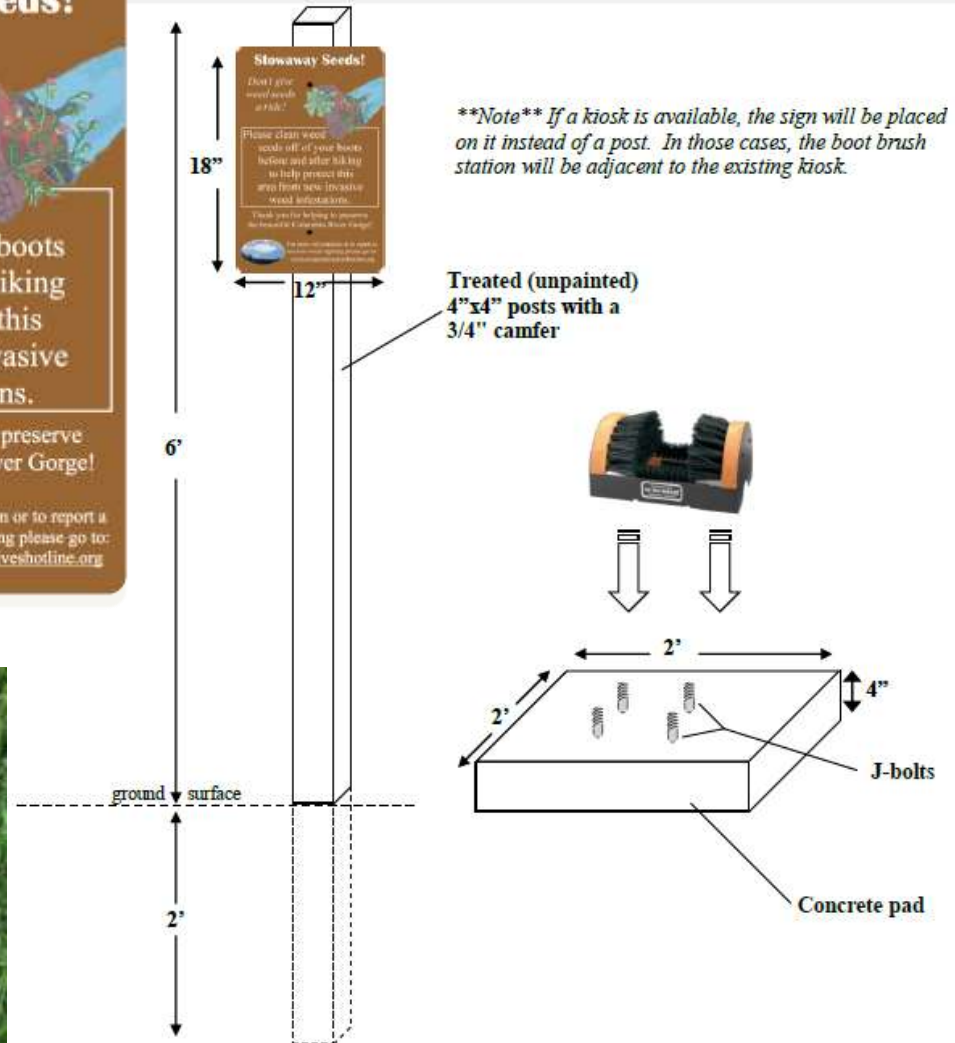
Coyote Wall Rush Skeletonweed Survey



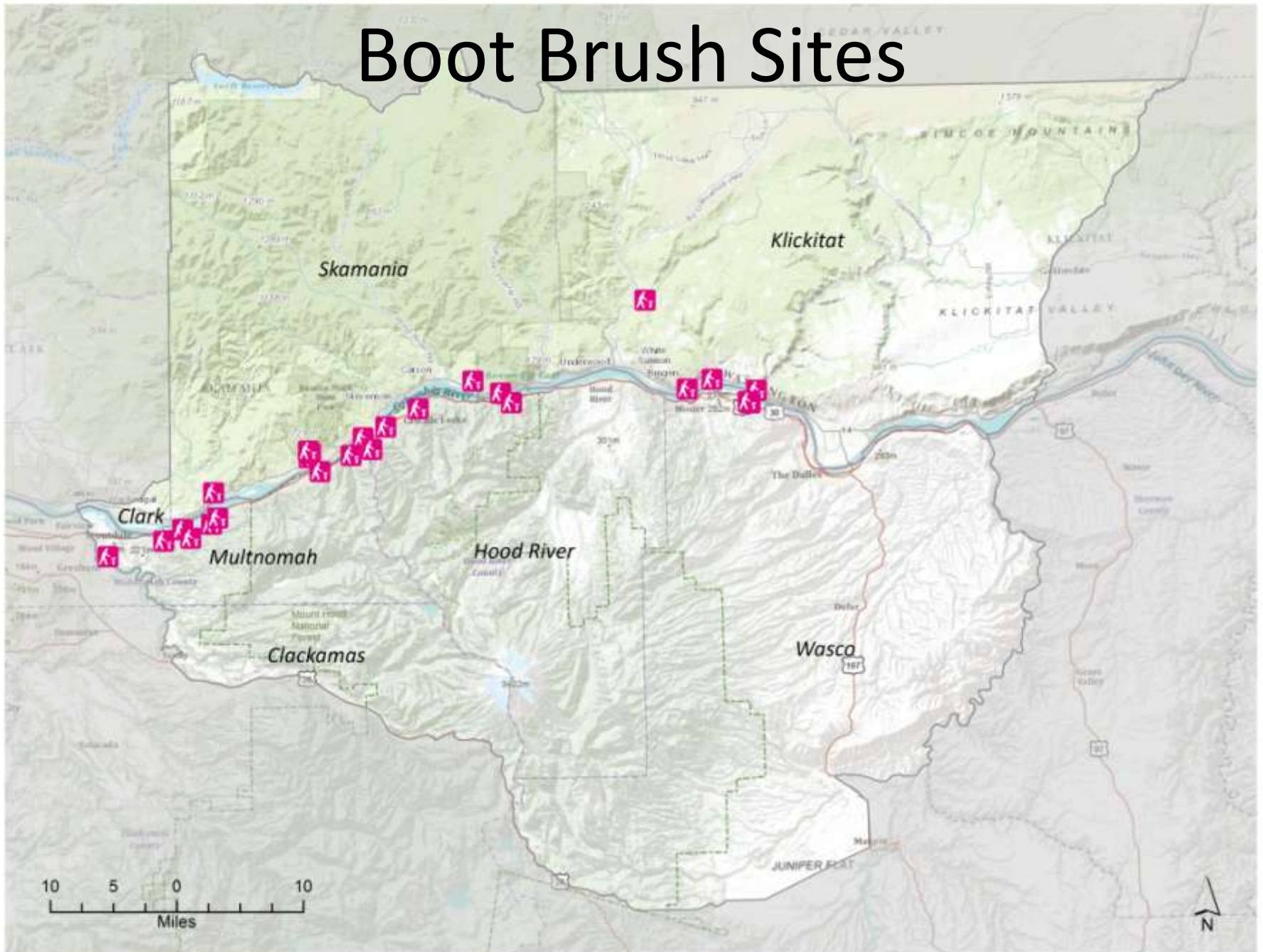
Cruzatt Rim Trail Invasive Plant Inventory



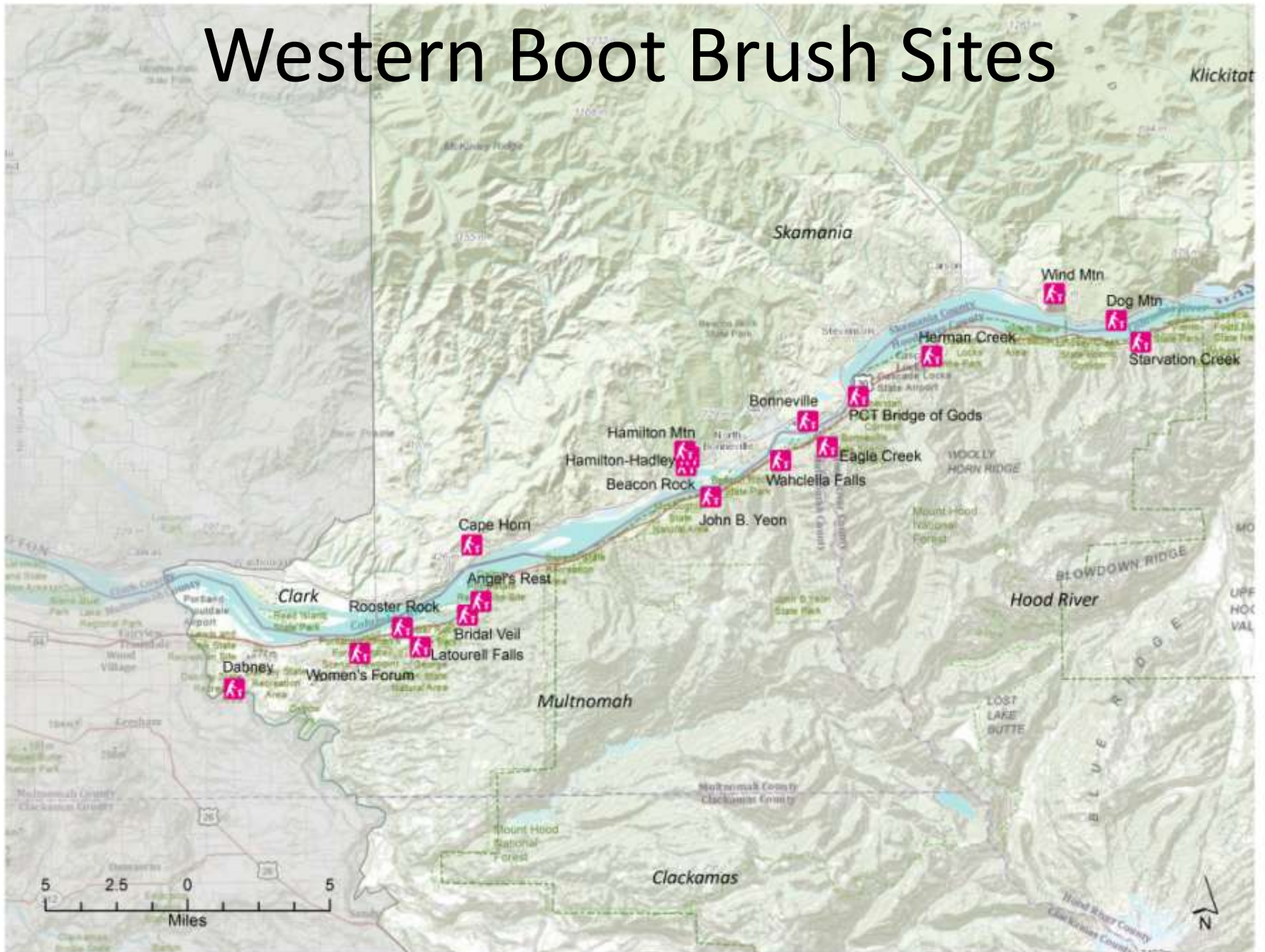
Prevention: Trailhead Boot Brushes



Boot Brush Sites



Western Boot Brush Sites



Eastern Boot Brush Sites





Outreach: Trainings/Field Guide

Download
the guide
digitally
here!



Worst Weeds of the Gorge A Guide for Early Detection and Rapid Response in the Columbia River Gorge



Forbs

Orange Hawkweed
Hieracium aurantiacum

1. Montana Statewide Invasive Weed Awareness and Education Program Section, MSU
2. San Whittowood, Stevens County WCD
3. WA Invasive Weed Control Board
4. Truxton-Lucas
5. Michael Shepard, Forest Service

General: Perennial forb. Mature plants 12 to 36 inches tall when flowering. Produces mats of rosettes. Spreads by stolons, rhizomes and seeds. Stems and leaves exude milky liquid when cut. Able to self-pollinate.

Leaves: Almost exclusively basal. Spatula or lance-shaped, up to 5 inches long. Leaf edges smooth or minutely toothed. Very hairy.

Flowers: Red to orange ray type flowerheads, 1/2 to 1 inch wide, grow on hairy flower stalks. Flowerheads arranged in clusters of 5 to 30 at top of typically leafless, hairy stem.

Fruit: 12 to 50 tiny seeds per flowerhead. Seedheads similar to dandelion. Individual seeds dark brown or black, cylindrical, elongated, barbed and bristled.

Notes: Found primarily in forest meadows and openings, pastures, lawns, and roadsides. Several invasive and native yellow hawkweeds are present in the Pacific Northwest and can be difficult to tell apart.

Impacts: Invasive hawkweeds dominate sites by out-competing other species and by releasing chemicals into the soil that inhibit other plants' growth. They thrive in moist, sunny areas but can tolerate shade. Wilderness meadows in the Pacific Northwest are especially at risk of invasion.

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Forbs

Pokeweed
Phytolacca americana

1. Rebecca Hill, ehow.com
2. Rebecca Hill, ehow.com
3. iStockPhoto.com
4. Rebecca Hill, ehow.com
5. Rebecca Hill, ehow.com

General: Perennial forb, 2 to 8 feet tall. Smooth, stout, purplish stem that branches extensively. Large, fleshy, white taproot.

Leaves: Egg-shaped, alternate on stem with smooth edges. Up to 12 inches long and 4 inches wide. Hairless.

Flowers: White or green. Form in elongated clusters that hang from branches in early summer.

Fruit: Hanging clusters of distinct, deep purple berries with crimson juice. Fruits present mid-summer to late fall.

Notes: Every part of pokeweed is poisonous with the root and leaves being the most toxic. The plant's berries have been shown to cause vomiting, spasms, and even death in humans. Resprouts from any remaining root fragments. Found mostly in yards, gardens, and waste areas in our region.

Impacts: Public health risk. Displaces native vegetation. The large taproot can grow to the size of a bowling ball, making it very difficult to eradicate.

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Aquatics

Flowering Rush
Botanomyces umbellatus

1. Ben Linger, University of Washington
2. Ben Linger, University of Washington
3. Ben Linger, University of Washington
4. Ben Linger, University of Washington
5. Ben Linger, University of Washington

General: Submersed or emergent freshwater perennial. Emergent plants can be up to 5 feet tall.

Leaves: Narrow, sword-shaped, fleshy leaves can grow below, above, or floating on the water and can be up to 9 feet long. The cross-section of the leaves is triangular at the base with a distinctive midrib as the leaf flattens toward the tip.

Flowers: A single, terminal, umbrella-like cluster (0.8 to 1 inch in diameter) of 20 to 50 white-pink flowers grows on a stalk up to 3 feet tall. Flowers have 3 large, pink petals, with 3 pink sepals under the petals. Blooms June to August.

Fruits: Leathery, beaked follicles. Plants in the Pacific Northwest rarely produce seed. Produces pea-sized bulbils (vegetative reproductive structures) at the base of the flower stalks and roots. Rhizomes of some varieties produce buds.

Notes: Resembles bulrushes and true rushes when not in flower, but is distinguishable by its triangular leaves. Can grow on the shoreline with stiff, upright leaves or submerged with flexible, floating leaves in water up to 20 feet deep.

Impacts: Rapidly colonizes shorelines, slow-moving water bodies, and wetland areas, displacing native vegetation and wetland habitat and negatively impacting recreational activities. Muskrats, waterfowl, water currents, and boating disperse buds, seeds, rhizome fragments, and bulbils.

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Outreach: Trainings/Field Guide

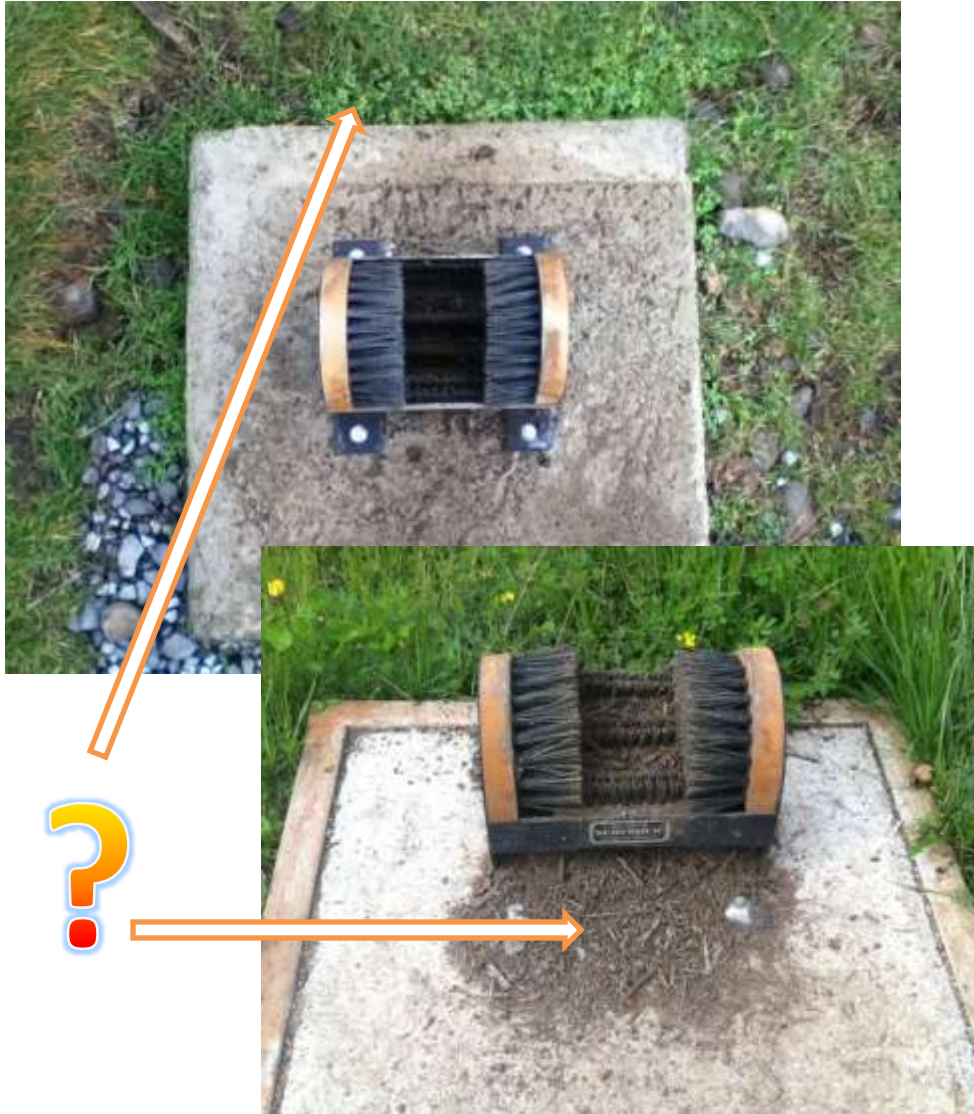


OPB's Oregon Field Guide



<http://www.opb.org/programs/ofg/segments/view/1836>

Lessons Learned



Plan for boot brush repair and maintenance.

Plan for EDRR monitoring and control at boot brush sites.

Receiving legacy data from 20+ CWMA partners and transforming it to one standard can be time consuming.

Permitting to install signs and brushes in 5 counties, a national scenic area and two states can take a lot of time.

Project Wrap-up

Objectives

- Facilitate data sharing between partners; by inventorying 40 high risk areas and collection of “legacy data” from partners to input into iMapInvasives and to share with Washington State.
- Install trailhead boot brushes and signs at 25 sites, to prevent invasive plant introduction and spread.
- Perform 4 “weed watcher” trainings within the CWMA region.

Actual

- Inventoried 49 total sites. Input partner data into iMapInvasives and shared with Washington State.
- Installed 25 trailhead boot brushes and signs.
- Performed 6 “weed watcher” trainings, including one with over 100 participants.



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Questions/Comments



SAVE THE DATE!

March 21th, 2013 – 9:00am to 4:30pm

2nd Annual Columbia Gorge Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop

Please join us for the second annual invasive species workshop in the Columbia River Gorge. This exciting workshop will focus on invasive plant control, invasive species and early detection of exotic pests. It is designed to provide new and best management practice information. Participants who are certified applicators may earn up to 7 Oregon or Washington State recertification credits.

For registration information, email Justin Bush at bush@co.skamania.wa.us or phone (509) 427-3941.



Topics:

Identification & detection of exotic pests

Municipal approaches to multi-taxa invasive management

Myths and misconceptions about herbicide technology

IPM of butterfly bush or other woody perennials

Nuts and bolts of biological control

Control of shade tolerant plants

Early detection lessons from New England

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